(c) As reported by BSNL they have taken number of steps to streamline the procedure for providing POIs and majority of POIs are currently being provided within 90 days to 120 days time, though the interconnection agreement between BSNL and the private operators provides a time frame of 12 months.

Many a times provision of POI is delayed even if BSNL has made necessary arrangements, due to the non-readiness of the private operators. Operators are also continuously announcing new tariff plans which lead to spurt in traffic and thereby congestion in some places. Additional POI capacity required cannot be provided immediately as due process has to be followed and at many places interconnect capacity is also not readily available.

Further, BSNL has requested private operators to give their demand forecast so that advance planning for procurement of equipment, needed for provision of POIs, can be done to the extent feasible.

(d) Does not arise inview of (c) above.

Joint agreement with America

†1676. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are apprehensions regarding adverse impact on interests on India due to implementation of the joint agreement with America, signed between these two countries on 18th July, 2005;

(b) if so, nature of these apprehensions and whether discussion was held on this regard with President Bush in Conference of G-8 nations; and

(c) if so, the comprehensive details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The US Congress is yet to pass the final legislation that would facilitate civil nuclear energy cooperation between India and the United States. The US House of Representatives voted on a Bill on 26 July 2006 and the US Senate Foreign Relations

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Committee on a draft Senate Bill on 29 June 2006. It would be premature to pass judgement on the legislation until its final text is known.

(b) and (c) Prime Minister conveyed to US President Bush that it is extremely important that the US legislation on the India-US nuclear deal should be in consonance with the goal of full civilian nuclear cooperation which the two sides have agreed upon, and on terms and conditions which do not go beyond reciprocal commitments spelt out in the July 18 Joint Statement and the Separation Plan. There are certain elements in the US House and Senate Bills which appear to go beyond those commitments. President Bush acknowledged that India had some concerns with respect to the wording of the House and the Senate Bills. He conveyed that the United States will ensure that the commitments and undertakings which are expected of India will not go beyond those spelt out in the July 18 Joint Statement and the Separation Plan.

Attack on Hindu pilgrims

1677. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some unknown gunmen attacked Hindu pilgrims in May, 2006 in the remote area of Sindh province in Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have registered their protest by raising this issue with the Pakistan Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) On 28 May 2006, unknown persons fired upon a group of vehicles carrying Pakistani Hindu pilgrims to Shadani Darbarin Hayat Pitafi, Sindh, where a *Satsang* of about 10,000 Hindus was being held on the occasion of the visit of Raiput (India) Shadani Darbar Guru, Yudhishter Lal. One person died in the attack and six were injured. The High Commission of India in Islamabad enquired about the welfare of Indian pilgrims from local authorities. No Indian national was hurt in the incident. The Pakistani authorities were reported to have made a few arrests following the incident.